

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Reseda Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(7) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 05/16/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 05/17/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0600

Agenda Date: 05/16/2022

Item Number: X. D.

Summary: Please see attached pdf for the full statement by the Reseda Neighborhood Council.



Reseda Neighborhood Council

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[Council File 22-0600](#) (Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2022-23)

Neighborhood Councils

Neighborhood councils are the boots on the ground for LA city government and are often the first place stakeholders turn when having issues. Our service to the City and our communities is on a volunteer basis, but there is a limit to how much time and labor each of us can give. When the pandemic hit and all departments were asked to cut their budgets, Neighborhood Councils took a disproportionate 24% reduction. We need our budgets restored to their original \$50,000 plus an adjustment for inflation which would bring our budgets to \$82,000 per year. It is very hard to function on our current \$32,000 a year allocation and make a significant difference in our communities.

If we provide simple snacks for our meetings that's 2% of our budget. If we fully fund a single neighborhood purpose grant and that's over 15% of our yearly budget. Our rent to have a meeting space in our community as required under the Brown Act is over 56% of our budget. We have to decide between basic operational expenses and making a difference in our neighborhoods. Most NCs are making this up by over relying on the free labor of our board member volunteers and we are getting exhausted and worn out.

This has a disproportionate effect on disadvantaged communities where board members do not have the luxury and privilege of time to dedicate hours upon hours to service of their communities. It has become clear that the City is leaning very heavily on our free labor and the situation is untenable and will drive active volunteers out of the NC system. It was especially disheartening to hear Capri Maddox exemplify this point during the Budget Hearings on May



2nd, saying that the Civil, Human Rights, and Equity Department was leveraging the free labor of Neighborhood Councils to save money in their outreach budget. If the NC system is to survive and thrive, we need our budgets reinstated to \$50,000 a year with an additional adjustment for inflation which would bring our budgets to \$82,000 a year.

The Reseda Neighborhood Council opposes the request by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for increased engagement and awareness budget. We refer the City Council to our previously filed community impact statement available [here](#).

Emergency Management Department

The Reseda Neighborhood Council is also very concerned about the capacity of the Emergency Management Department. Los Angeles County was ranked highest in the nation for natural disasters in FEMA's 2020 Natural Risk Index and while experts on urban emergency response recommend that cities the size of Los Angeles have 100 people for emergency management, as of November 2021, the Emergency Management Department had 18 filled positions.

We ask that, in addition to proper funding and access to immediate funds in emergencies, that the Emergency Management Department develop a five-year plan to bring itself up to the basic level of being able to protect Los Angeles and that the City Council work with the Department to implement it. To save lives, we urge the creation of a revolving fund of \$10 million that can be drawn on without delays.

Ethics Department

Furthermore, given the City's well-publicized ethics issues, the Reseda Neighborhood Council asks that the City strengthen the Ethics Department by increasing its authority and independence. Angelenos should not settle for less. **Two of the three following recommendations should be implemented:**

- Give the Ethics Department the ability to place legislation directly on the ballot.
- Give the Ethics Department its own independent legal counsel outside of the City Attorney.
- Give the Ethics Department a steady source of funding not under City influence.

Department of Transportation

We recommend that LADOT be funded to work towards Vision Zero and Mobility 2035 goals. We also recommend that the West Valley traffic engineer and its support staff be fully funded. The West Valley needs long lasting traffic improvements that can be best done by smart road design. The Reseda Neighborhood Council is committed to street design changes that prioritize safety and reduce pedestrian fatality and injury.

We also would like to see the city prioritize shade equity along transportation routes and invest more in transportation infrastructure in communities that have traditionally been overlooked.



Recreation and Parks

Lastly, the Reseda Neighborhood Council strongly desires park improvements, particularly the development of a splash pad in the West Valley. We ask that the planned improvements for “triangle park” include a splash pad water play feature. This was recommended in the [LA County Parks Needs Assessment](#) and the need for a splash pad only grows as heat increases and the West Valley grows. A splash pad play feature would be a much needed recreation feature but also provide a modest economic boost to Reseda as families from areas outside Reseda would travel to our area to use this amenity.

Sincerely

Reseda Neighborhood Council

This vote occurred in a general board meeting in accordance with the Brown Act on May 16, 2022 with a total of: 7 yes, 1 no, 6 absent.

CC: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, Board of Transportation Commissioners, Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, Emergency Management Department, Board of Civil and Human Rights Commissioners